

IN THE CLAIMS:

1- 6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a base apparatus which includes a first sheet transporting path extending substantially vertically and performs a first processing for a sheet traveling downward along [[all]] the entire length of said first sheet transporting path; and

5 a scanner apparatus which can be removably mounted on said base apparatus and includes a reading element,

wherein a second sheet transporting path extending substantially vertically is defined by a surface of said scanner apparatus on which said reading element is provided, and a surface of said base apparatus which faces to said scanner apparatus in a case where said scanner apparatus is mounted on said base apparatus, and a second sheet travels downward along [[all]] the entire length of the second transporting path;

10 and wherein said scanner apparatus includes a pick roller provided at a location upstream of said second sheet transporting path as viewed in a sheet transporting direction and includes a feed roller provided at a locations downstream of said second sheet transporting path, said first and second sheet transporting paths being provided along and adjacent and nearly parallel to each other at their straight guide parts of the upper portion, and the [[said]] first and second sheet delivery ports are provided at a same side of said multiple function apparatus;

and wherein said scanner apparatus is so implemented as to be capable of operating as a hand scanner in a case where said scanner apparatus is detached from said base apparatus.

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said scanner apparatus has a protecting member provided in a manner projecting at a side of said surface of said scanner apparatus to protect said pick roller from collapsing with the weight of the scanner apparatus in a case where said scanner apparatus is used as a hand scanner.

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said protecting member is provided at a location outside of a reading area of said scanner apparatus.

10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein a groove to receive said protecting member in a case where said scanner apparatus is mounted on the base apparatus is provided in the surface of said base apparatus facing toward said protecting member.

Claims 11-18 (canceled).

19. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:  
a base unit including a part of a sheet transporting mechanism;  
a scanner apparatus which can be removably mounted on said base unit and includes at

least the other part of said sheet transporting mechanism and a reading element;

5                   a scanner mounting portion provided on said base unit and adapted to removably mount  
said scanner apparatus on said base unit; and

an engaging portion provided on said scanner apparatus and adapted to engage said  
scanner mounting portion,

10                  wherein either said scanner mounting portion of said base unit or said engaging portion  
of said scanner apparatus is a pivotal shaft for allowing said scanner apparatus to rotate  
frontwards, while the other is in the form of a holding member for holding said pivotal shaft.

20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said  
scanner apparatus is so implemented as to be capable of operating as a hand scanner in a  
case where said scanner apparatus is detached from said base unit.

21. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

a lock member locking said scanner apparatus in a state mounted on said base unit.

22. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:  
a rotation limiting stopper preventing said scanner apparatus from swinging  
excessively frontwards of said apparatus in a case where said scanner apparatus is attached  
to or detached from said base unit.

23. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:  
a deviation preventing stopper preventing said scanner apparatus from displacing upwardly  
of said apparatus in a case where said scanner apparatus is mounted on said base unit.

24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:  
a base unit including a part of a sheet transporting mechanism;  
a scanner apparatus which can be removably mounted on said base unit and includes  
the other part of said sheet transporting mechanism and a reading element;  
5 a scanner mounting portion provided on said base unit and adapted to removably  
mount said scanner apparatus on said base unit;  
and an engaging portion provided on said scanner apparatus and adapted to engage  
said scanner mounting portion,  
wherein a sheet guide provided on said scanner apparatus and a sheet guide provided  
10 on said base unit ~~are faced to~~ face each other, so that a space defined between said two  
sheet guides becomes gradually narrower toward a sheet withdrawal port, and offset  
member is provided for at least one of said two sheet guides for stepwise limiting moving of  
a sheet toward said sheet withdrawal port.

25. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said  
scanner apparatus is so implemented as to be capable of operating as a hand scanner in a  
case where said scanner apparatus is detached from said base unit.

Claims 26-33 (canceled).

34. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:  
a base apparatus which includes a first sheet transporting path extending substantially vertically and performs a first processing for a sheet traveling along said first sheet transporting path; and  
5 a scanner apparatus which can be removably mounted on said base apparatus and includes a reading element, wherein a second sheet transporting path extending substantially vertically is defined by a surface of said scanner apparatus on which said reading element is provided, and a surface of said base apparatus which faces toward said scanner apparatus when said scanner apparatus is mounted on said base apparatus, said first and second sheet transporting paths being provided along and adjacent to each other, and wherein said scanner apparatus may be detached from said base apparatus so as to operate as a hand scanner;  
wherein said base apparatus includes a first sheet guide provided at a location upstream of said second sheet transporting path; and said scanner apparatus includes a 10 second sheet guide provided at a location upstream of said second sheet transporting path; and wherein said first and second sheet guides face each other in a manner that a space between said first and the second sheet guides gradually narrows toward said second sheet transporting path, and the first sheet travels downward along [[all]] the entire path of the first traveling path, and the second sheet travels downward along [[all]] the entire path of the 15 second traveling path;

the second traveling path; and

the [[said]] first and second sheet delivery ports are provided at a same side of said multiple function apparatus.

35. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 34, wherein said scanner apparatus includes at least one pick roller provided on a surface where said reading element is provided, and a protecting member projecting at a side of said surface and protecting said pick roller when said scanner apparatus is used as a hand scanner.

36. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 35, wherein said protecting member is provided at a location outside of a reading area of said scanner apparatus.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) A multiple function apparatus, comprising:  
a base unit;  
a first transporting guide on said base unit, said first transporting guide including a straight guide part and a deflecting guide part, said straight guide part being formed so as to transport a first sheet straight and is open at one end, and said deflecting guide part being connected to said straight guide part at a side opposite said one end so as to transport a first

sheet in a direction different from a direction of transport effected by said straight guide

part;

10 a first apparatus provided at said deflecting guide part, and performing processing for said first sheet in a case where said first sheet is transported along said deflecting guide part;

a second transporting guide, provided along said first transporting guide, being formed so as to transport a second sheet;

15 a second apparatus, provided at said second transporting guide, and performing processing for said second sheet in a case where said second sheet is transported along said second transporting guide, said second apparatus being a scanner apparatus which can be removably mounted on said base unit and includes a reading element, said scanner apparatus being implemented as to be capable of operating as a hand scanner in a case where said scanner apparatus is detached from said base unit;

20 wherein a portion of said second transporting guide which faces [[to]] said deflecting guide part is movable, so that said first apparatus can be exposed.

39. (Previously Presented) A multiple function apparatus according to claim 38, wherein said second apparatus is provided opposite of said first transporting guide with respect to said second transporting guide.

40. (Previously Presented) A multiple function apparatus according to claim 38,

wherein a direction of transport of said first sheet effected by said straight guide part and a direction of transport of said second sheet effected by a portion of said second transporting guide which faces to said straight guide part form an angle smaller than 90 degrees with the vertical direction in a case where said multiple function apparatus is provided for use.

5 41. (Previously Presented) A multiple function apparatus according to claim 38, further comprising:

a first transporting mechanism transporting said first sheet from said straight guide part of said first transporting guide toward said deflecting guide part;

5 a second transporting mechanism transporting said second sheet by said second transporting guide in a manner that said second sheet is transported in substantially a same direction as said first sheet;

a first sheet delivery port for delivery of said first sheet from said multiple function apparatus, said first sheet delivery port being provided at a location downstream of said deflecting guide part as viewed in a direction of transport of said first sheet; and

10 a second sheet delivery port for delivery of said second sheet from said multiple function apparatus, said second sheet delivery port being provided at a location downstream of said second transporting guide as viewed in a direction of transport of said second sheet,

15 wherein said first and second sheet delivery ports are provided at a same side of said multiple function apparatus.

42. (Previously Presented) A multiple function apparatus according to claim 40,  
wherein said second transporting guide is provided closer to the front side of said multiple  
function apparatus than is said first transporting guide, said first apparatus is an image  
forming apparatus, said second apparatus is a scanner, a sheet accommodating part is  
provided at a location upstream of said first transporting guide as viewed in said sheet  
transporting direction, said sheet accommodating part accommodates a plurality of sheets to  
be fed to said first transporting guide.

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43. (Currently Amended) A multiple function apparatus according to claim 42,  
wherein a portion of said second transporting guide which faces [[to]] said deflecting guide  
part serves as a part of a cover of said multiple function apparatus and covers said image  
forming apparatus.

44. (Currently Amended) A multiple function apparatus according to claim 42,  
wherein a portion of said second transporting guide which faces [[to]] said deflecting guide  
part is movable, so that said image forming apparatus can be exposed.

45. (Previously Presented) A multiple function apparatus according to claim 38,  
wherein said first apparatus and said second apparatus are provided in such a positional  
relation as to overlap each other in the vertical direction in a case where said multiple  
function apparatus is in use.

46. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

5 a base unit;

a scanner apparatus which includes a reading element and can be removably mounted on said base unit;

5 a scanner mounting portion provided on said base unit and adapted to removably mount said scanner apparatus on said base unit; and

an engaging portion provided on said scanner apparatus and adapted to engage said scanner mounting portion, wherein a sheet transporting path is defined by a surface of said scanner apparatus on which said reading element is provided, and a surface of said base unit which faces [[to]] said scanner apparatus in a case where said scanner apparatus is mounted on said base unit, and said engaging portion and said scanner mounting portion hold said scanner apparatus in a manner that said scanner apparatus can rotate to a direction that said sheet transporting path is open.

47. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 46, wherein a sheet transporting direction of said sheet transporting path is substantially vertical, and said engaging portion and said scanner mounting portion hold said scanner apparatus such that said scanner apparatus can rotate about a lower portion thereof in a state mounted on said base unit.

5 48. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 46, further comprising:

a lock member locking said scanner apparatus in a state mounted on said base unit.

49. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 46, further comprising:  
a rotation limiting stopper preventing said scanner apparatus from swinging  
excessively.

50. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said base  
unit is an image forming apparatus.

51. (Canceled)

52. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:  
a base apparatus;  
a scanner apparatus which can be removably mounted on said base apparatus and  
includes a reading element;

5       [[and]] a sheet transporting path defined by a surface of said scanner apparatus on  
which said reading element is provided, and a surface of said base apparatus which faces  
toward said reading element in a case where said scanner apparatus is mounted on said base  
apparatus;

at least one device disposed in said base apparatus; and

10      a cover of said base apparatus guiding a sheet delivered from said sheet transporting

path and covering said device;

wherein said cover can move so that said device is exposed.

53. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 52, wherein said cover can be opened and closed.

54. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 52, wherein said cover can be removed.

55. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 52, wherein said base apparatus is an image forming apparatus.

56. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 52, wherein said base apparatus is an image forming apparatus, and a sheet guide of a sheet delivery portion of said image forming apparatus and a sheet guide of a sheet delivery portion of said scanner apparatus are provided adjacent to each other.

57. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 52, wherein said base apparatus is an image forming apparatus, and a sheet guide of a sheet feeding portion of said image forming apparatus and a sheet guide of a sheet feeding portion of said scanner apparatus are provided adjacent to each other.

58. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 52, wherein said base apparatus is an image-forming apparatus, and a sheet feeding portion of said scanner apparatus is provided frontward with respect to a sheet feeding portion of said image forming apparatus.

59. (Previously Presented) A multiple-function apparatus, comprising:  
an image forming apparatus including a sheet transporting path extending substantially vertically;  
a scanner apparatus of an automatic sheet feeding type and including a sheet transporting path extending substantially vertically; and  
5 at least one device disposed in said image forming apparatus;  
wherein said sheet transporting paths of said scanner apparatus and said image forming apparatus are provided adjacent to each other, and a sheet guide provided at least at a part of said sheet transporting path of said scanner apparatus serves as a cover for said 10 device disposed in said image forming apparatus and said sheet guide can move so that said device is exposed.

60. (Previously Presented) A multiple-function apparatus according to claim 59, wherein said scanner apparatus is removably mounted on said image forming apparatus, and said scanner apparatus is so implemented as to be capable of operating as a hand scanner in a case where said scanner apparatus is detached from said image forming apparatus.

61. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 46, wherein said scanner apparatus includes at least one roller or a plurality of rollers for sheet transportation, a center of rotation of said scanner apparatus being located at a downstream side, with regard to a direction of sheet transportation of said at least one roller or a plurality of rollers.

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62-69. (canceled).